

Message Text

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43

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2698

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USNATO

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

DOCOALSE/6 ATAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 1802

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: AEGEAN DISPUTE: TURKISH EXERCISES, EXPLORATION PLANS

REF: (A) ATHENS 2064, (B) ANKARA 1490

1. THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 7 THE FOLLOWING
SCHEDULE OF MILITARY EXERCISES IN THE AEGEAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE:

MARCH 9: "SMALL-SCALE AIR DEFENSE" EXERCISE;

MARCH 11: JOINT TURKISH-FRENCH NAVAL MANEUVERS;

MARCH 23-30: A NAVAL EXERCISE WITH OCCASIONAL AIR FORCE PAR-
TICIPATION.

THE STATEMENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT ATHENS AIR TRAFFIC
CONTROL HAD BEEN INFORMED SO THAT APPROPRIATE NOTAMS
COULD BE ISSUED. (COMMENT: THERE HAS BEEN NO PUBLIC
ANNOUNCEMENT OF A "COMPROMISE" (REF A) ON THE MARCH 9
EXERCISE, NOR ANY DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF WHERE AND HOW THE
EXERCISE WILL TAKE PLACE.)

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2. MINENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES KILIC, IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE WEEKLY YANKI NEWSMAGAZINE, COMMENTED AGAIN ON TURKISH PETROLEUM RESEARCH PLANS IN THE AEGEAN (REF B). KILIC REITERATED THAT THE HORA WOULD BEGIN SEISMIC SURVEYS IN THE AEGEAN IN MAY AND THAT THE MFA AND DEFENSE MINISTRY HAD "TAKEN ALL THE NECESSARY MEASURES AGAINST ANY POSSIBLE GREEK INTERVENTION." (MARCH 7 HURRIYET REPORTED THAT THE TURKISH NAVY WOULD "PROTECT" THE HORA DURING ITS SEISMIC SURVEYS.) CONCERNING THE OIL EXPLORATION, KILIC STATED THAT "THE FIRST THING IS TO ESTABLISH OUR SOVEREIGNTY RIGHTS IN THE AEGEAN IN A WAY TO LEAVE NO ROOM FOR DOUBT. ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS COME LATER." HE NOTED THAT LICENSES TOTALLING 6 MILLION HECTARES "COVERING ALL OUR CLAIMS ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF," HAD BEEN AWARDED TO THE TURKISH PETROLEUM OFFICE (TPAO) FOR AEGEAN EXPLORATION. (COMMENT: KILIC'S STATEMENT IS INDICATIVE OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S INTEREST IN SHOWING THAT IT IS DETERMINED TO "PROTECT" TURKISH INTERESTS IN THE AEGEAN AND THUS REBUT OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT'S CRITICISMS.)
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